

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-17, and new claims 54-58 remain pending in the application of which claims 1, 13, and 54 are independent claim. Claims 1, 11, and 13-17 have been amended. Claims 54-58 are new claims to replace some of the canceled claims.

1. (currently amended) A solid laminated ball bat having a predetermined exterior outline, comprising:

an elongated body disposed about a longitudinally extending axis, said body having an outer surface defined by the exterior outline of the bat, said body including a handle on one end and a barrel on the opposite end, said body including a label section connected between said handle and said barrel;

said bat including in said barrel at least a first plurality of thin strips, each thin strip defining a pair of opposed faces, each said face defining a substantially flat plane, each said plane being substantially parallel to the other, each said strip further defining a peripheral edge connecting said opposed faces, at least one face of one of said strips being bonded to a face of an adjacently disposed strip, said first plurality of bonded together strips defining a first portion of the bat;

said bat further including in at least one of said handle, said barrel and said label section, at least a second plurality of thin strips, each thin strip defining a pair of opposed faces, each said face defining a substantially flat plane, each said plane being substantially parallel to the other, each said strip further defining a peripheral edge connecting said opposed faces, at least one face of one of said strips being bonded to a face of an adjacently disposed strip, said second plurality of bonded together strips defining a second portion of the bat;

said bat further including a third plurality of thin strips, each thin strip defining a pair of opposed faces, each said face defining a substantially flat plane, each said plane being

substantially parallel to the other, each said strip further defining a peripheral edge connecting said opposed faces, at least one face of one of said strips being bonded to a face of an adjacently disposed strip, said second plurality of bonded together strips defining a third portion of the bat;

wherein at least one thin strip of said first plurality of thin strips is composed of a first material;

wherein at least one thin strip of said second plurality of thin strips is composed of a second material;

wherein the density of the first portion of the bat differs from the density of the second portion of the bat and the third portion of the bat; ~~and~~

wherein the third portion is disposed adjacent to the second portion of the bat along the width of the bat and wherein the first portion is disposed adjacent to one of said third portion and said second portion along the length of the bat; and

wherein the size, density and position of said first plurality of thin strips, said second plurality of thin strips, and said third plurality of thin strips are selected so that bat's center of mass is located at one of (a) the geometric center of the bat, (b) in said barrel, and (c) the handle.

2. (previously presented) A solid laminated ball bat as in claim 1, wherein the density of said first portion of the bat is substantially uniform and wherein the density of said second portion of the bat is substantially uniform.

3. (previously presented) A solid laminated ball bat as in claim 1, wherein said bat is a baseball bat.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) A solid laminated ball bat as in claim 1, wherein each of said first plurality of thin strips has a thickness defined as the shortest distance between said opposed faces and wherein said thickness is between about 1/32nd of an inch to about 1/12th of an inch.

7. (previously presented) A solid laminated ball bat as in claim 1, wherein each of said second plurality of thin strips has a thickness defined as the shortest distance between said opposed faces and wherein said thickness is between about 1/32nd of an inch to about 1/12th of an inch.

8. (previously presented) A solid laminated ball bat as in claim 1, wherein each of said opposed faces are bonded together by one of an urea resin formulated with a powdered catalyst and a type 1 waterproof glue formulated with a powdered catalyst.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) A solid laminated ball bat as in claim 1, further comprising a catalyzed lacquer protectant applied over said outer surface of the bat.

11. (currently amended) A solid laminated ball bat as in claim 1, wherein said first material is composed of a cellulosic material, such cellulosic material being selected from the group consisting of: maple, mahogany, ~~ash~~, cherry, poplar, gum, tupelo and pine.

12. (previously presented) A solid laminated ball bat as in claim 1, wherein at least one thin strip of said first plurality of thin strips is composed of a composite material.

13. (currently amended) A laminated ball bat having a predetermined exterior outline, comprising:

an elongated body symmetrically disposed about a longitudinally extending axis, said body having an outer surface defined by the exterior outline of the bat, said body including a handle on one end and a barrel on the opposite end, said body including a label section connected between said handle and said barrel, said barrel having a free end disposed opposite where said barrel is

connected to said label section, said handle having a free end disposed opposite where said handle is connected to said label section, said body defining a mid plane disposed transversely relative to said longitudinal axis and midway between said free end of said barrel and said free end of said handle;

said bat including a first plurality of thin strips, each said thin strip defining a pair of opposed faces, each said face defining a substantially flat plane, each said plane being substantially parallel to the other plane, each said thin strip further defining a peripheral edge connecting said opposed faces and defining a section of the exterior outline of the bat, at least one face of one of said thin strips being bonded to a opposed face of an adjacently disposed thin strip such that the peripheral edges of said pair of adjacently disposed and bonded thin strips form a first section of the uninterrupted exterior outline of the bat, said first plurality of bonded together thin strips defining a first portion of the bat, said first portion of the bat defining a first outermost face and a second outermost face disposed opposite said first outermost face;

said bat further including a second plurality of thin strips, each said thin strip defining a pair of opposed faces, each said face defining a substantially flat plane, each said plane being substantially parallel to the other plane, each said thin strip further defining a peripheral edge connecting said opposed faces and defining a section of the exterior outline of the bat, at least one face of one of said thin strips being bonded to an opposed face of an adjacently disposed thin strip such that the peripheral edges of said pair of adjacently disposed and bonded thin strips form a second portion of the uninterrupted exterior outline of the bat, said second plurality of bonded together thin strips defining a second portion of the bat, said second portion of the bat defining a first outermost face and a second outermost face disposed opposite said first outermost face;

said bat further including a third plurality of thin strips, each said thin strip defining a pair of opposed faces, each said face defining a substantially flat plane, each said plane being

substantially parallel to the other plane, each said thin strip further defining a peripheral edge connecting said opposed faces and defining a section of the exterior outline of the bat, at least one face of one of said thin strips being bonded to a face of an adjacently disposed thin strip such that the peripheral edges of said pair of adjacently disposed and bonded thin strips form a third section of the uninterrupted exterior outline of the bat, said third plurality of bonded together strips defining a third portion of the bat, said third portion of the bat defining a first outermost face and a second outermost face disposed opposite said first outermost face;

wherein ~~at least one thin strip of~~ said first plurality of thin strips is composed of a plurality of different materials; a first material;

wherein ~~at least one thin strip of~~ said second plurality of thin strips is composed of a plurality of different materials; a second material;

wherein said third plurality of thin strips is composed of one type of material;

wherein said first plurality of thin strips, said second plurality of thin strips and said third plurality of thin strips are disposed in at least the barrel of the bat with the third plurality of thin strips disposed between the first plurality of thin strips and the second plurality of thin strips;

wherein the density of the first portion of the bat differs from the density of the second portion of the bat; ~~and the length of the first portion of the bat differs from the length of the second portion of the bat;~~ and

~~wherein said first portion is disposed adjacent to said second portion along the width of the bat and adjacent to said third portion along the length of the bat~~

wherein the third portion of the bat is the densest section of the bat.

14. *(currently amended)* A laminated ball bat as in claim 13, wherein the plurality of different materials making up said first plurality of thin strips are configured so that the density of said first portion changes from least dense at a first side of said first portion to most dense at a second side of said first portion. ~~at least one of said first portion, said second portion, and said third portion have a substantially uniform density.~~

15. *(currently amended)* A laminated ball bat as in claim 13, wherein the plurality of different materials making up said second plurality of thin strips are configured so that the density of said second portion changes from least dense at a first side of said second portion to most dense at a second side of said second portion. ~~wherein the density of said first portion of the bat differs for the density of said third portion of the bat.~~

16. *(currently amended)* A laminated ball bat as in claim 13, wherein said third portion is twice as dense as the material in said handle. ~~wherein at least two of said first, second and third portions of the bat are disposed adjacent to one another.~~

17. *(currently amended)* A laminated ball bat as in claim 13, wherein said first, second and third portions of the bat extend into the bat's handle. ~~are disposed apart from each other.~~

18. *(canceled)*

19. *(canceled)*

20. *(canceled)*

21. *(canceled)*

22. *(canceled)*

23. *(canceled)*

24. *(canceled)*

25. *(canceled)*

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52. (canceled)

53. (canceled)

54. (new) A laminated ball bat having a predetermined exterior outline, comprising:

an elongated body symmetrically disposed about a longitudinally extending axis, said body having an outer surface defined by the exterior outline of the bat, said body including a handle-section on one end and a barrel-section on the opposite end, said body including a label-section connected between said handle-section and said barrel-section, said barrel-section having a free end disposed opposite where said barrel-section is connected to said label-section, said handle-section having a free end disposed opposite where said handle-section is connected to said label-section, said body defining a mid plane disposed transversely relative to said longitudinal axis and midway between said free end of said barrel-section and said free end of said handle-section;

said bat including a plurality of bat portions, said portions comprising a plurality of thin strips, each said thin strip defining a pair of opposed faces, each said face defining a substantially flat plane, each said plane being substantially parallel to the other plane, each said thin strip further defining a peripheral edge connecting said opposed faces, at least one face of one of said thin strip being bonded to a opposed face of an adjacently disposed so that said plurality of bonded together thin strips define a portion of the bat;

wherein said plurality of bat portions include a middle-portion disposed at least partially in the approximate middle of said barrel-section, said middle-portion comprising a plurality of thin strips consisting of one middle-portion-material;

wherein said plurality of bat portions include an first outer-portion disposed at least partially adjacent to said middle-portion, said first outer-portion comprising a plurality of thin strips consisting of a plurality of materials; and

wherein the density of said middle-portion is different from the density of said outer-outer-portion.

55. (new) A laminated ball bat as in claim 54, further comprising as second outer-portion disposed at least partially adjacent to said middle portion, said second outer-portion comprising a plurality of thin strips consisting of a plurality of materials.

56. (new) A laminated ball bat as in claim 55, further comprising as label-portion disposed at least partially in said label-section and at least partially in said barrel-section and at least partially adjacent to said middle-portion, said label-portion comprising a plurality of thin strips consisting of a plurality of materials.

57. (new) A laminated ball bat as in claim 56, wherein said label-portion has a substantially uniform density.

58. (new) A laminated ball bat as in claim 57, further comprising a handle-portion disposed at least partially in said label-section and at least partially in said handle-section, said label-portion comprising a plurality of thin strips consisting of a plurality of materials.

CLAIM STATUS

Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bender in view of Smith.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 11, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bender in view of Smith and Cook.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable the art as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of You.